



The Arc Minnesota
800 Transfer Road, Suite 7A
Saint Paul, MN 55114-1414

T 651-523-0823 1-800-582-5256
F 651-523-0829
www.arcmn.org

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Contact: Mike Gude, Communications Director; 651-604-8066 (work);
651-756-9364 (cell); mikeg@arcmn.org

Date: September 5, 2016

Backstrom Honored by Disability Advocacy Group

Dakota County Attorney James Backstrom will receive the Andrew R. Richardson Advocacy Award from The Arc Minnesota. Backstrom will receive the award at The Arc Minnesota's Awards Banquet on Friday evening, September 23, 2016 at the Shoreview Community Center in Shoreview, Minnesota.

Backstrom is being recognized for the importance he has placed in bringing justice to all victims of crime, including those with disabilities. Backstrom has initiated legal actions to protect children and vulnerable adults, and he has vigorously prosecuted cases to bring justice to crime victims with disabilities, even though the barriers to successful prosecution have been high at times.

Backstrom also is being honored for his efforts to educate his peers about the rights of people with disabilities and disability law. He has urged other Minnesota county attorneys to prosecute crimes when the victims have disabilities. He has also spoken about disability justice at continuing legal education courses and worked to bring speakers to conferences, seminars, and other presentations to educate attorneys and law enforcement about issues affecting people with disabilities. In addition, he has disseminated his expertise through a law school journal and videotaped segments on the Disability Justice Resource Center website.

The Arc Minnesota's September 23rd banquet honoring Backstrom will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Shoreview Community Center, 4580 Victoria Street North in Shoreview, Minnesota. You can order tickets for the event by contacting Mike Gude at 651-604-8066 or mikeg@arcmn.org.

The Andrew R. Richardson Advocacy Award honors a person or organization that speaks for and/or raises awareness of the rights, needs, abilities, and/or human acceptance of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Arc Minnesota's Awards Banquet is part of the organization's annual state conference. This year's conference, "The Power of Community: Connections That Transform Lives," is also being held at the Shoreview Community Center on Saturday, September 24, 2016. The all-day

For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

event will include workshops on best practices, success stories, and one-on-one assistance and advice to help people with disabilities become more fully included in their community. The conference is geared to people with disabilities, their family members, and direct care staff who support them. For more information, go to www.arcmn.org/state-conference-2016

The Arc Minnesota is a statewide, non-profit organization that promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes. It is supported by members, partners, and 10 affiliated chapters statewide. For more information, go to www.arcmn.org

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